



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
SPICKARD ARMED CAREER CRIMINAL SENTENCED
FOLLOWING JURY CONVICTION

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Spickard, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Jerry Dean Urick, 38, of Spickard, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this afternoon to 17 years in federal prison without parole.

On Aug. 18, 2004, **Urick** was found guilty by a federal trial jury of being an armed career criminal in possession of a firearm. Following the presentation of evidence in **Urick's** trial, Graves said, the jury returned a guilty verdict, ending a trial that began on Aug. 17, 2004.

The federal jury found **Urick** guilty of being a felon in possession of a Keystone Sporting Arms .22-caliber bolt-action rifle and an ERA 12-gauge shotgun on Feb. 7, 2004, in Grundy County, Mo. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Urick** has a 1998 criminal felony conviction for passing bad checks, a 1998 criminal felony conviction for forgery, a 1994 criminal felony conviction for burglary and driving while intoxicated, a 1986 criminal felony conviction for forgery and escape and a 1985 criminal felony conviction for burglary and stealing. **Urick** is classified as an armed career criminal because he was found in possession of a firearm after having been convicted of three or more violent felonies or serious drug offenses, Graves said.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelson. It was investigated by NITRO, the Grundy County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow